

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 226475

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

FOL ROME 12646 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV. 15, 1973

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS ROME 12646

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MEDIA COVERAGE SISCO VISIT

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S VISIT TO ROME WAS COVERED IN GREAT DETAIL BY BOTH TV AND RADIO. MONDAY EVENING'S MAIN NEWSCAST CARRIED FILM CLIP OF SISCO AND AMBASSADOR VOLPE MEETING ITALIAN FONMIN MORO AND ASST. SECY'S INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN TV JOURNALIST. SPEAKER EXPLAINED OVER SISCO'S VOICE THAT "HE HAD EXCELLENT DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ITALIAN FONMIN AND HIS COLLABORATORS...ITALY IS FIRST LEG OF TRIP THROUGH EUROPE TO REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT TRUCE AND TO HEAR ITALIAN VIEWPOINT. CONSULTATIONS WITH ITALIANS AND OTHER NATO ALLIES WILL CONTINUE." TV ANCHOR MAN CONCLUDED: "ASKED WHEN AND WHERE PEACE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD, SISCO REPLIED THAT WE STILL HAVE TO WAIT."

2. SISCO'S ROME VISIT ALSO COVERED EXTENSIVELY BUT FACTUALLY BY ALL PAPERS EXCEPT PRO-COMMUNIST /PEASE SERA/. THREE UNCLASSIFIED

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FRONTPAGE STORIES (SOCIALIST AVANTI, CHRISTIANDEMOCRAT IL

POPOLO AND LEFT-OF CENTER IL GLOBO). ALL REPORTS WERE BASED ON STORY RELEASED BY ITALIAN ANSA NEWSAGENCY AND ON TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STRESSING "CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS." SEVERAL PAPERS PUBLISHED PICTURES SHOWING ASST. SECRETARY WITH AMBASSADOR VOLPE AND MIN. MORO. AVANTI NOTED SICO'S "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF ME NEGOTIATIONS." OTHER PAPERS SPECULATED THAT SISCO'S MEETING WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS DEALT WITH "FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES."

3. UNOFFICIAL VATICAN DAILY /OSSERVATORE ROMANO/ REPORTED SISCO'S MEETING WITH MORO BUT IT IGNORED MEETING WITH CASAROLI. VOLPE UNQUOTE RUSH

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